

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15
STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
DOE-11 STRE-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
OIC-02 /159 W

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R 241214Z FEB 78

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6391

INFO ALL WHEAT NEGOTIATIONS POSTS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 02936

USOECN USEEC USMTN

PASS ELECTRONICALLY AGRICULTURE FOR NOVOTNY AND STR FOR
STARKEY
ALL POSTS FOR AGATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD EAGR OCON

SUBJECT: WHEAT CONFERENCE--FEBRUARY 17-21

1. SUMMARY: WITH FINAL AGREEMENT ON THE LEADERSHIP OF
THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEES, SUBSTANTIVE WORK OF THE COMMI-
TEES HAS BEGUN. THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ON WHEAT HAS AGREED
TO USE VERSION A OF THE IWC DRAFT, WITH THE INSERTION OF
ARTICLE 3 FROM VERSION B, AS THE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS.
HOWEVER, VERSION B HAS NOT BEEN FORMALLY WITHDRAWN. THE
FIRST READING OF THE DRAFT HAS BEGUN. DEBATE HAS BEEN
INITIATED WITHIN THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ON COARSE GRAINS
ON THE BASIS OF A PROPOSAL MADE BY THE EC. THE EC PROPOSAL
IS ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS VERSION B OF THE IWC DRAFT.

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2. PLENARY - GENERAL STATEMENTS BY BRAZIL, SOUTH AFRICA,
ALGERIA AND SPAIN WERE PRESENTED IN WHICH FOLLOWING IMPOR-
TANT POINTS WERE RAISED: BRAZIL BELIEVES FIRM MIN/MAX
TRADING PRICE SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN NEW IWA, BUT DOES NOT
SUPPORT NEGOTIATION OF COARSE GRAINS AGREEMENT. SOUTH
AFRICA OUTLINED INTEREST IN COARSE GRAINS AS AN EXPORTER

AND EMPHASIZED LACK OF NECESSARY PREPARATORY WORK IN THIS AREA. SWEDEN ARGUED THAT COARSE GRAINS DISCUSSIONS SHOULD NOT HINDER PROGRESS ON WHEAT AND THAT THE LATTER MIGHT ONLY SERVE AS A STARTING POINT FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON COARSE GRAINS. ALGERIA EXPRESSED INTEREST IN BILATERAL SUPPLY/PURCHASE AGREEMENTS WITH US AND EC AND HOPED IWA WILL ENCOURAGE SUCH ARRANGEMENTS. ALGERIA SUPPORTS THE MIN/MAX PRICE CONCEPT, THE NEGOTIATION OF A SEPARATE COARSE GRAINS ARRANGEMENT, AND THE INCLUSION OF DURUM WHEAT IN AN IWA. SPAIN SUPPORTS MIN/MAX PRICE CONCEPT AND NEGOTIATION OF GRAINS ARRANGEMENT INCLUDING WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS.

3. ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ON COARSE GRAINS - DURING MEETING ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, THE EC TABLED A PROPOSAL WHICH IS ESSENTIALLY VERSION B OF THE IWC DRAFT. WHILE EXPRESSING A WILLINGNESS TO EXAMINE THE EC'S PROPOSAL, THE US AND JAPAN QUESTIONED THE FEASIBILITY AND DESIRABILITY OF A COARSE GRAINS ARRANGEMENT.

4. VICE CHAIRMEN (WRIGHT FROM CANADA AND GUPTA FROM INDIA) WERE ELECTED. ARGENTINA AND THE EC DEBATED THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS, WHILE CANADA AND EGYPT RAISED QUESTIONS CONCERNING PRODUCT COVERAGE. THE EC ARGUED THAT ONLY MAIZE, SORGHUM, BARLEY AND DENATURED WHEAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN A COARSE GRAINS ARRANGEMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BECAUSE OF THEIR DIRECT LINK TO WHEAT, BUT EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO INCLUDE OTHER GRAINS. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DENATURED WHEAT AND FEED WHEAT WAS ALSO DEBATED. OTHER THAN RESULTING IN A REQUEST OF THE IWC SECRETARIAT TO PREPARE A PAPER ON FEED WHEAT, THE DEBATES WERE INCONCLUSIVE.

5. ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ON WHEAT - VICE CHAIRMEN (VAZNAUGH FROM US AND LOEHIBI (ALGERIA) WERE SELECTED AFTER EFFORT BY EC TO OBTAIN VICE CHAIRMAN POST AS REPRESENTATIVE OF IMPORTER COUNTRIES. MEETING WAS DEVOTED TO A DEBATE CONCERNING WHICH VERSION SHOULD SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION. THE EC INITIALLY INSISTED ON VERSION B, WHILE THE US, CANADA AND AUSTRALIA ARGUED FOR VERSION A. THE COMMUNITY THEN ARGUED THAT VERSION A, WITH THE INSERTION OF ARTICLE 3 FROM VERSION B, WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. HOWEVER, WHEN THIS COMPROMISE WAS NEARLY AGREED TO, THE EC REVERSED ITSELF ARGUING THAT ONLY VERSION B WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT THIS JUNCTURE WITH NO DECISION.

6. DURING THE MEETING ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, THE EC CONCEDED TO A READING OF VERSION A, WITH THE INSERTION OF

ARTICLE 3 OF VERSION B IN BRACKETS. THE EC ALSO ACCEPTED
REMOVING REFERENCES TO GRAINS FROM VERSION A, BUT
QUALIFIED ITS POSITION BY STATING THAT THIS PROCEDURE DOES
NOT MEAN THAT VERSION B IS FORMALLY WITHDRAWN. THE
COMMITTEE PROCEEDED THROUGH THE FIRST READING AND DISCUS-
SION OF ARTICLES 1-5 OF VERSION A AND ARTICLE 3 OF
VERSION B. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MINOR COMMENTS BY INDIA
ON OBJECTIVES, BY BRAZIL ON THE DEFINITION OF LDC'S AND BY
ALGERIA ON THE INCLUSION OF DURUM WHEAT, THE DISCUSSIDN
WAS DOMINATED BY AN EC-PROVOKED DEBATE ON THE MIN/MAX
PRICE ISSUE. THE OPPOSITION INCLUDED THE US, CANADA AND
ARGENTINA, WHILE THE EC WAS THE SOLE ACTIVE PROPONENT.
JAPAN, BRAZIL AND SPAIN MADE STRONG SUPPORTIVE STATEMENTS
ON THE CONCEPT, BUT DID NOT ACTIVELY SUPPORT THE EC IN
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STARKEY. ALL POSTS FOR AGATT

DEBATE. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 24 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
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